Malherbe Monthly

Number 252
July 2025

The dream becomes reality
See inside for full details of the 1st Cricket match of the Grafty Green Wanderers on 1st June 2025

The Team from left to right in the picture are :
Back Row : Nick Eastwood, Mark Tomlinson, Niall McNulty, James Iles (Captain), Matthew Iles, Paul Stapley, Ada Hook, Steve Legon
Front Row : Gary Thompson, Jake Russ, Dean Cutbill, Jack Geary, Dave Ryan

Useful contact names and telephone numbers

County Councillor	Sarah Emberson Sarah.Emberson@kent.gov.uk	
Borough Councillors	Martin Round martinround@maidstone.gov.uk Ziggy Trzebinski ziggytrzebinski@maidstone.gov.uk	890276 07852 492770
Member of Parliament for the Weald of Kent	Katie Lam katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk	01580 388344
Church Wardens	Kenneth Alexander Vanessa Goodwin	859549 858372
Parish Council Clerk	email boughtonmalherbepc@gmail.com	
Village Hall General Enquires	Jon Thompson Email: jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk	07932 112730
Gardening Club	Doreen Hulm	850287
Church Choir	Doreen Hulm	850287
Dance Fit	Sharon Harris	890170
Craft Group	Jan Carter	850898
Yoga	Sue Burch	07803 962339
Parish Council Website	www.boughtonmalherbe.co.uk	
Priest in charge	Dr John Huggins email: vicar@lvb.org.uk	850280
Pilates	Cheryl Stubbs email: c.stubbs8@btinternet.com	07852 602369
Art Class	Cathy Hill email: cathyonthehill@hotmail.com	07927 045708
Tai Chi	Rhonda Bailey	07985 001782
Benefice Office	Sarah Hills email: churchoffice@lvb.org.uk Answer phone available out of hours	850604
St. Edmunds Centre	Kate Stansfield Mobile 07500 895831	
Fresh Fish delivery	Tuesday PM fortnightly by the red "phone" box (date to be posted on the box)	07976 435217
Malherbe Monthly Production Team		
Carol Hulm Carol Hulm Nick Eastwood John Collins	Advertising: carolhulm@gmail.com Editor: carolhulm@gmail.com Distribution: eastwood.n@gmail.com Treasurer	07990 574214 07990 574214 850330 850213

The views expressed in "Malherbe Monthly" are not necessarily those of the Production Team; publication of articles/adverts does not constitute endorsement and we reserve the right to edit!
Anything for the **August** edition should be sent to the Editor Carol Hulm via email (carolhulm@gmail.com) by **25th** July)

The dream becomes a reality…..
It was Sunday 1st June, D-Day for the Grafty Green Wanderers Cricket Team as they took on the old rivals of Egerton.

You could feel the tension in the dressing room as Colin " The Docker ", the Motivational force behind the Team reminded the players of the journey they'd been on over the past few months, that all the pain and suffering was all for this moment and this was our time to make both ourselves, our families and our Village proud. Carol, our scorer took her seat in front of the Pavillion, her pencil sharpened she opened the new Wanderers scorebook.

With the sun shining, James " Baby face " Iles led the Team onto Egerton Cricket Field with the "Grafty Green Growlers" encamped on the small hill near the Pavillion where they were joined by Village icons, Dickie Dean and David Chantler, who played for the old Team, to urge the Wanderers on. The honour of bowling the first ball was given to Mark " The Essex Swinger ", a perfect delivery, no run - Game On.

The early bowlers did the job with " The Essex Swinger " and "The Hook" taking a couple of early wickets to put the pressure on. Egerton's No3 batsman, R Martin showed great flare at the crease scoring 41 including three 6's before Steve " The Leg " Legon delivered an outstanding ball that sharply turned and to the amazement of the batsman removed his leg stump as he was trying another reverse sweep.

" Baby face " the Captain barked out orders to his fielding side who danced like gazelles to keep the run rate down. Extreme measures were employed by both tumbling " Dangerous Dave " and " The Hook " who with total commitment decided to use his head to stop the ball going to the boundary. The injury needed medical attention, so he left the field to visit A&E but returned later to cheer the Team on.

The replacement, Jake " No Fuss " Russ leapt into action racing across the field and subsequently displayed some fantastic fielding stopping boundary after boundary. Over the closing overs the Wanderers Bowlers Paul " The Brickie ", Jack " The Prof " and Gary " Gray by night " Thompson steadily took wickets, and Egerton finished their 20 overs with 122 for 7.

It was then time for the Wanderers to Bat. The opening pair of " The Leg " and "Dangerous Dave " faced the onslaught of the Egerton pace bowling attack. The early loss of the opening pair was a set back and the new pairing of Matthew "

The Beef " and Niall " The Ginger " started to get the score board ticking over.

"The Ginger " was out to a great delivery after making a great 10 including 2 fabulous boundaries. " The Prof " then strode out to the crease like a man on a mission proudly carrying his newly purchased bat. The "Beef " and The " Prof " increased the scoring rate with both batsman hitting boundaries as well as grabbing the quick singles.

With an excellent innings of 36, The "Prof" finally fell to a lovely delivery by Egerton's bowler A Davis. The " Brickie " made his way to the crease immediately and impetuously stroking a ball to the boundary.

At the other end, The " Beef " however was having a "Botham " esk style performance, stroking boundary after boundary, reaching a truly magnificent 50 which meant he had to retire. A marvellous innings and he left the field with adulation from the " Grafty Green Growlers " on the Hill.

Needing only a few runs to win from the last 2 overs. The new batsman, Dean " Scratching Tendulkar " made a slow, purposeful and maybe even graceful walk to join the " The Brickie " at the crease. Knowing the task ahead of them and with wickets in hand they immediately took a couple of quick singles.

E Smith's finally delivery was met with a classic Tendulkar trade mark drive, holding his pose as the ball raced to the boundary, the " Growlers " on the hill let out an almighty roar, Victory to The Wanderers, 125 for 4 with an over to spare.

The dream had been turned into reality, a cricket Team reborn….

The waft of BBQ sausages and burgers filled the air as " The Docker ", Gavin " The Sailor " and the " Growlers " on the Hill prepared food, cake and beverages for everyone to the delight of all those in attendance.

The second match was shortened to 15 Overs to ensure that the light wouldn't stop play. Egerton batted first and scored very steadily. Nick " The Chairman " Eastwood was called up to bowl, he strode to crease and fired in an outstanding delivery wiping out the stumps, a truly dream start for the " Chairman ", a wicket with his first delivery!

" The Ginger " had kept wicket magnificently throughout both games and his performance behind the wicket was crowned with an outstanding catch when

the batsman nicked the ball to his outstretched gloves!

Egerton eventually made 114 for 5 with notable wickets being taken by The " Brickie ".

The " Chairman " and " Dangerous " opened the batting for The wanderers and under some excellent bowling runs were hard to come by. The run rate required was steadily increasing and the loss of a few wickets left "Babyface " and " The Brickie " with a mountain to climb with only a few overs remaining.

The pair swung the bat with all the strength and vigour they could muster… "Babyface " putting on 22 and The " Brickie " 26 including some memorable 6's but alas it wasn't enough with The Wanderers finished at 96 for 4.

" Babyface " thanked Egerton Cricket Club and all those who made the matches possible.

The Man of Match over the two matches was " The Brickie " with 5 wickets including a catch off his own bowling and scoring 31 runs not out made even more special as it was his birthday.

A village cricket team is all about engaging with the community, and fostering a sense of belonging, so if you have some cricketing prowess and want to come along to join the Team practice sessions, please feel free to contact Paul on 07803 610800.

Our next match is against Smarden at 6 pm on Wednesday 6th August, so please come along and join the "Grafty Green Growlers " in supporting your village Cricket Team.

Boughton Malhberbe Parish Council News

The next Parih Council meeting will take place on Monday 7th July at 7.30pm in the village hall, all are welcome.

59 BUS

The weekly shoppers' bus to Maidstone continues to run on Wednesdays, and funding is in place for the service to continue until the end of March 2026. Discussions have already started to seek further funding so that the service can continue after that date.

The bus leaves Grafty Green at 09.56, and running via Headcorn is due to arrive in Maidstone King Street at 10.39. The return journey leaves Maidstone King Street, outside of Greggs, at 12.45, and is due to arrive at Grafty Green at 13.27.

The bus is quite well used, but mostly by passengers from Kingswood, and it really could do with more use of it being made by Grafty Green residents. Senior Citizen and other concessionary passes are valid on the service, but if you don't have one the return fare is just £4-90.

As ever, **USE IT OR LOSE IT**, because if it were ever withdrawn through insufficient passenger numbers, it would almost certainly be gone for good.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the service, please raise them, preferably in writing, through Marie Norris, the Clerk to Boughton Malherbe Parish Council.

John Collins
on behalf of Boughton Malherbe Parish Council

Family Water Safety Fun Day – Hosted by Kent Fire and Rescue Service

Join Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) on **Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 July** for a brand-new *Water Safety Fun Day* — a family-friendly event designed to help keep you safe around water.

Kent has one of the highest rates of water-related incidents in the UK. That's why KFRS is hosting this exciting day out, packed with fun activities, games, and the chance to meet firefighters — all while sharing vital water safety advice.

It will have the same fun, friendly feel as their usual open days - but with a water safety twist!

The event is also being hosted in a stunning, historic setting of Tonbridge Castle, right next to the River Medway.

For full details about the event and a link to book your FREE tickets, visit: https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/our-events

Socials

Kent Fire and Rescue Service is inviting families around Kent and Medway to attend their brand-new Water Safety Fun Day event this summer!

- When: 29th and 30th July
- Where: Tonbridge Castle

Take the family to enjoy a fun-filled day packed with games, activities, and the chance to meet firefighters - all with a focus on keeping your family safe near water.

Find out more and book your tickets, here: https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/our-events

Village Hall News – July Newsletter

As many of you will be aware Ron Galton has sadly passed away and on behalf of the trustees I would like to offer Ron's family our sincere condolences for their loss. Ron was tireless in his support for the village and the hall over many years and his wise council, enthusiasm and support will be greatly missed. The celebration cream tea that he organised in the hall was well supported and a fitting tribute to Ron.

Sadly, due to a lack of ticket sales we have taken the decision to cancel the summer Quiz Night in collaboration with Platts Heath School on Saturday 5th July.

Weekly Farmer's Market at the village hall every Friday between 1 and 3pm
The weekly Farmer's Market is proving very popular with a wide array of goodies on offer from fruit and veg, curries, cakes, cheese, pet food, savouries, plants, bread and scones from the church and many other items. So please come along and support local producers whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a natter with friends in our cosy village hall.

Update on the electrical rewire of the village hall. We are planning on having the outside lighting at the hall replaced over the next few weeks. As the work will be undertaken in the main outside the hall this should present only a modest inconvenience to hall users whilst this initial work is undertaken. We then will close the hall between Monday 4th August for 4 weeks until Friday 29th August so that the re-wire may be completed.

During that time the following activities will be held at alternative venues as follows:-

- The Tuesday coffee mornings, (and hopefully the Post Office service), will be held at St Nicholas Church at the same time 12 noon to 2pm.
- The Friday afternoon farmer's market, (weather permitting), will be held on the village green again at the same time 1pm to 3pm.
- Tuesday morning Pilates Class, (9.30 am to 10.30 am), will be held at Ulcombe village hall whilst the works are completed in August.

On behalf of the trustees, I would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience this will cause, but as you will all appreciate this will provide us with a hall with greater functionality and an electrical system that should give us good service for many years to come.

There will be some making good to be undertaken once the rewiring has been completed and we plan to have the hall redecorated during the winter break, (after the Christmas Quiz on Saturday 6th December and before The Panto on Saturday 10th January 2026). So again, please bear with us over this period the New Year should see our lovely village hall back to looking it's best!

Thank you all once again for your support of the hall which is greatly appreciated by the trustees.

Kind regard

Jon Thompson Village Hall Committee Chairman
jon@graftygreenalpacas.co.uk - Tel 07932 112730 - www.graftygreenvillagehall.co.uk
facebookgraftygreenvillage

A weekly Farmer's Market is now held at Grafty Green Village Hall every Friday between 1pm-3pm

Pet treats and accessories

Scones

Knitted crafts

Pre loved books

Homemade skincare products

Plants and flowers

Savouries

Homemade curries

Kent and Sussex cheeses

Fruit, vegetables, eggs and juices

Homemade cakes

They will also be serving tea and coffee.

For further information please email Tara at info.graftygreen@gmail.com>

Grafty Green Village Hall

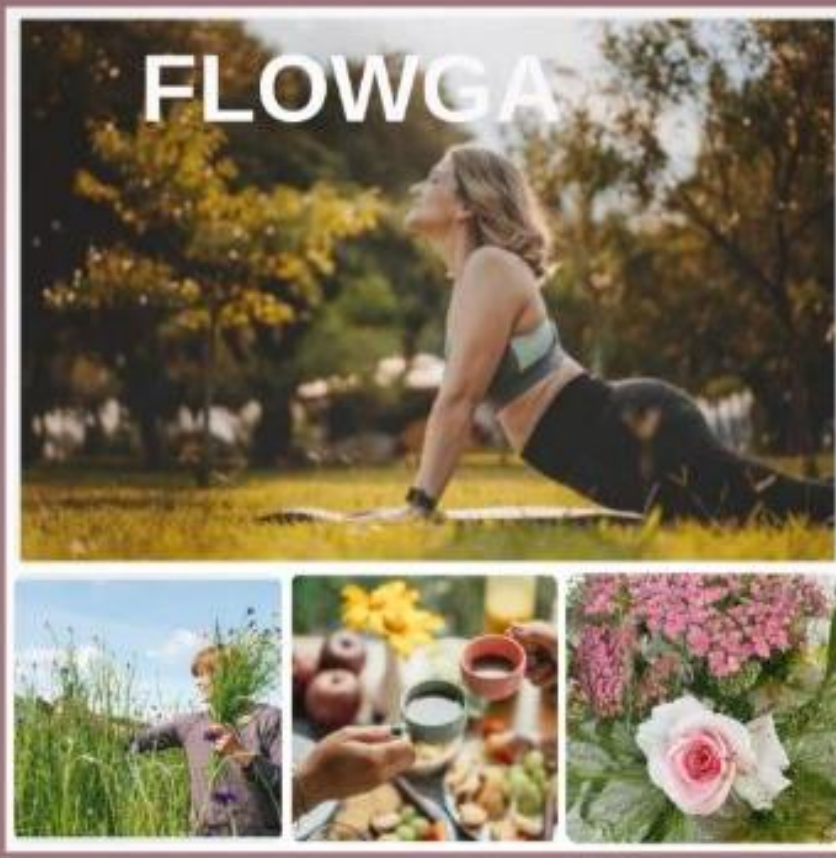
Bookings 07932 112730

Regular Weekly Events

Yoga – mixed ability Susan Burch 07803 962339	**Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11am** **Wednesdays 7 – 8.30pm**
Pilates Cheryl Stubbs 07852 602369	**Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am**
Post Office	**Tuesdays 12.45 – 2.15pm** **Thursdays 11.15 – 1.15pm**
Coffee morning	**Tuesdays 12.00 – 2.00pm**
Short Mat Bowls Joan Marriott 07503 568874	**Tuesdays 2.30 – 5.30pm**
Dance Fit Sharon Harris 01622 890170	**Wednesdays 11 – 12.30pm**
Tai Chi Rhonda Bailey 07985 001782	**Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00pm**
Craft Group Janis Carter 01622 850898	**Fridays 10 -12.00pm**
Art Class Cathy Hill 07927054708	**Alternate Wednesdays 1 – 3.30pm** **Alternate Thursdays 7-9pm**
Farmer's Market Tara – graftygreen.info@gmail.com	**Friday 1- 3pm**

Regular Monthly Events

Gardening Club Doreen 01622 850287	**First Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm**
Digital Kent	**Fourth Tuesday 12 – 2pm**



26th July 09.30-12.30
A morning of Flowers & Yoga - 'Flowga'
Visit www.ParkhousePetals.co.uk for more details and to secure your spot.
07825 600116

The Grafty Gourmet

This is a great barbecue chicken kebab recipe, with its sweet, spicy, sticky glaze. Sprinkle with spring onions after cooking.

Barbecued Korean Chilli & Honey Kebabs

12 boneless and skinless chicken thighs
2 tablespoons of soy sauce
1 tablespoon of sesame oil
1 thumb sized piece of ginger - grated
4 spring onions – sliced
For the glaze
4 tablespoons of Korean chilli paste (gochujang)
2 tablespoons of honey
The juice of half a lime
1 tablespoon of soy sauce
1 teaspoon of sesame oil
2 tablespoons of sesame seeds

1. Coat the chicken in the soy sauce, sesame oil and ginger. Thread each thigh on two long metal skewers, so that each skewer pierces one side of the thigh. Keep threading the chicken, making sure it's packed onto the skewers tightly.

2. Mix the ingredients for the glaze. On the barbecue, cook the kebab for 5-8 mins on each side (depending on the heat). Once nicely charred but not fully cooked through, start painting on the glaze. The honey will catch if cooked for too long. The key to nice sticky chicken, is applying the glaze in layers, turning the kebab often.

3. Once the glaze has been used up and the chicken is cooked through (it'll take about 20 mins in total), transfer to a plate and leave to cool for 5 mins before serving scattered with spring onions.

The Grafty Gourmet

Grafty Green Gardening Club

Meetings take place in Grafty Green Village Hall, usually on the first Tuesday of the month and begin at 7.30. Members contribute £2 for each meeting where we have a speaker and guests (always welcome) £4.

Outings take place from May to August this year and the cost and final details will be sent out prior to the event.

Membership £5 - contact Doreen Hulm (Treasurer) 01622 850287

Programme for 2025

Date	Speaker/Event	Topic
1st July	The Copper House, Benenden TN17 4LE Limited parking, so car sharing required. Meet there at 6. Costs £7 p.p and £5 for tea and cake	
5th August	**Outing** to East Malling Communigrow educational wellbeing garden charity.	
2nd September	Autumn Show & Rachel Castle (Swallowfields Nursery)	Shine a light on bulbs!
7th October	Kevin Tooher	The Edwardian gardens of Sussex
4th November	Ed Flint (head gardener at Tidewell Manor Robertsbridge)	Roses and friends
December	Leeds Castle light show	

Gardening Tips

Gardening tips for July:

- Deadhead roses and bedding plants to encourage flowering to continue
- Pick sweet peas regularly to keep them coming
- Liquid feed greenhouse plants weekly
- Continue to water containers and newly planted plants in borders. A good soak in the evening or early morning is best
- Top up bird baths
- Thin out congested apples
- Prune summer flowering shrubs after flowering
- Sow biennial flowers
- Continue weeding, especially among veg crops

Sue's Nature Notes

Gardening for Wildlife - The chain starts with the little bugs (insects) and invertebrates, without these little creatures there is less for the birds, amphibians and small mammals.
Think of your garden becoming a nectar bar for the wide variety of insects that pollinate the blossom of our fruit trees and other garden flowers (even what might be considered a weed); butterflies and moths benefitting as well.

If you have had frogspawn your tadpoles will metamorphose into froglets, emerging onto dry land; it will take around three to four years for them to become fully mature when they will return to the pond to spawn. Young newts also stay out of water until they reach maturity coming back to the pond around mid-February. When on dry land amphibians will hide under rocks and logs feeding mostly at night on slugs and snails and small insects.

Our gardens are an oasis for wild life and generally we love to see the variety of interesting creatures that visit; maybe with your neighbours you are part of a much larger jigsaw that means together we can all make a huge difference.

Sue's Blog

The lawn (now looking more like a meadow) has quite a range of plants which are now flowering; there is a hint of a carpet of mauve and white with clover and self-heal, interspersed with the daintiest pink geranium and blue speedwell plus a sprinkling of yellow hop clover and yellow rattle. The grass seed heads gently move in the breeze and the cat likes to camouflage herself amongst the stalks to watch the comings and goings of the residents.

One wildflower I was somewhat excited to see was Lysimachia arvensis - scarlet pimpernel, also known as shepherds weather glass as the petals close on an overcast day; again, a tiny flower. It's an annual so I hope some seeds will drop to give me a wider spread next year; I read somewhere that turtle doves like the seeds; here's hoping.

The evenings bring out the hedgehogs; one quite aggressive as it ran (really speedy) at another hedgehog, biffed it with its nose, turning it over onto its back! There is a range of cats that frequent the garden and occasionally a vixen.

Sue

Yoga classes in Grafty Green Village Hall

Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30 till 11

Wednesday evenings 7 till 8.30

New term starts 2nd June – 8 weeks £48

Drop in at £8

To book call Sue Burch (British Wheel of Yoga teacher) on 07803 962339

Yoga can be powerful as well as gentle; getting to know what your body needs through a regular practice; for more information please give me a call.

LENHAM FILM CLUB

Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

Lenham Film Club

at Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way

Maria

Friday, July 11th

Performance begins 19.30, doors open 19.00

Running time 2hr 3 mins plus interval, director: Pablo Larrain

Maria Callas needs little introduction as the world-famous opera singer, but what of Maria herself? *Maria* (12A, 2025) is a moving biopic set in 1977, in which we find Maria living in Paris with two loyal servants, her career at an end. The film tells the story of her final seven days during which she looks back over the tumultuous but ultimately tragic story of her life, at both her wonderful career on the stage and her personal relationships, including the passionate but doomed love affair with the magnate Aristotle Onassis. Angelina Jolie gives a brilliant performance as the tragic woman behind the voice and is even responsible for some of the singing in the film. Earning a host of award nominations, Maria is a beautiful film which invokes the style of the day; the film is as unforgettable as the diva herself. Join us on 11th July to share the glory of her voice once more, as it rises above her tragic life.

A leading lady of an entirely different kind dominates our performance on Friday August 8th **Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy**. Comedy, romance, Renée Zellweger, Hugh Grant... Well, what more could you want? See you there!

Please get in touch for more information or to join our mailing list.

Admission: Adults £5, under 16s £2; cash only, card payments not accepted.

lenhamfilmclub@gmail.com

www.lenhamfilmclub.org

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News from St. Nicolas Church – July 2025

An update from Rev.John Huggins. He and Lorraine wish to thank everyone for their kindness and prayers as he recovers from his heart surgery. After a 6-week total rest period he hopes to make a very gradual return and we look forward to seeing him out and about in the parishes, as medical advice recommends. Also, a date for the diary: his last day with us before his retirement will be September 14th. We hope to keep everyone up to date with events.

Usual reminders

The church porch remains open at all times for everyone. Help yourself to a hot drink and biscuit and relax. You might enjoy a time to read the bible on the windowsill. You could even have the company of a few very friendly chickens! Don't worry about them, they know their way around and are very close to home. If the water jug or dog bowl is empty you can fill it up from the tap at the back of the church, around the corner beyond the west door. We may not check every day. Personal prayer requests can be left here and will be collected and prayed for in church later.

The mini food bank box is there for anyone in need. A larger food bank is at the back of St.Mary's church in Lenham, open daily from 10.00am-4.00pm.
St.Nicolas main church building is open for services, meetings, cleaning etc. please contact the churchwardens for a key at other times.

Celtic morning prayer is taking a break during the summer. Details will be posted in the magazine when we start again in the autumn.

Village 'Cake and Coffee Time' takes place from 12 noon-2.00pm every Tuesday in the village hall in Grafty Green, along with the Post Office from 12.45-2.15pm. We share any donations for the refreshments between St.Nicolas and a charity, chosen by the regulars. We will be choosing our next charitable gift of £100 at the end of June.

As mentioned in last month's magazine, we look forward to hosting this weekly event, along with the Post Office in St.Nicolas's church in August, while the village hall undergoes a refurbishment. You will enjoy sitting around the beautiful oak refectory table, or outside if the weather is fine. I'm sure the chickens will make an appearance.

News
We gave our bone China cups, saucers and plates an outing in the village hall last week on June 14th, as we catered for the Community Cream Tea, sponsored by Ron. Sadly, he was not well enough to join in, but everyone sent thanks for his generosity. Many thanks, too, to all who helped make it a very special occasion.

The Farmers' Market. We're able to do an extra Friday in June and added cakes to the repertoire, which always brings more discussion about recipes. Thank you, Jacquie for the delicious carrot cake. Wasn't sure about the National Trust recipe for Coronation cheese scones, involving curry powder and mango chutney, but they went down a storm! You just never know.

Cream Teas are back in July!
We very much look forward to meeting old and new friends at this year's four cream tea events in July and August.

The dates for your diary are: **Sunday 20thJuly, Sunday 27th July, Sunday 3rd August, and Sunday 10th August,** all from 2.30pm-5pm.

Ron Galton We are now aware that Ron sadly died a few days ago. He will be missed by many. He was involved in the life of the village for many years, and we were thinking him so much on Saturday 14th June as we enjoyed the Cream Tea in the hall. We send our thoughts and prayers to his family at this time.

Sunday 22nd June we welcomed the rest of the benefice churches for a combined service led by Rev.David Bates. As we were finishing coffee and refreshments three delightful neighbours walked in!

God's own creation!

-

Sally Alexander

Len Valley Benefice
July 2025

Everybody is welcome

For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear. I will help you. *Isaiah 41:13*

Wednesday 2nd July
9.30am Lenham: Holy Communion
11.00am Harrietsham: Chippendayle

Sunday 6th July
9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
9.30am Harrietsham: Morning Worship
11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion

Sunday 13th July

9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
11.00am Lenham: Holy Communion
11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
6.30pm Boughton Malherbe: Choral Evensong

Sunday 20th July
8.00am Lenham: Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Boughton Malherbe: Holy Communion
9.30am Harrietsham: Holy Communion
9.30am Lenham: Breakfast Church
11.00am Ulcombe: Holy Communion
11.00am Lenham: Morning Worship

Sunday 27th July
11.00am **Benefice Holy Communion** at **St Mary's, Lenham**

'Re-Sourced in Christ – ***Generosity***'

Christian Message July 2025

Dear All,

Things are not always what they seem.

Just recently I came across an image on my phone. An astounding picture of a snowy owl with both wings around her gorgeous fledglings, which numbered about 12 – it was an incredible image, they were all full face forward, fluffy, delightful, so I sent it to various members of our family. One of my own fledglings pointed out quite rapidly this image was not real at all – this was instead an AI created image and whilst Snowy Owls do indeed tuck their young under their wings, they do not have as many fledglings as that.

I had been fooled. I wanted it to be real, but it wasn't. I had been duped. And I was truly disappointed as it had brought me such pleasure and now I looked foolish – naïve!

Being a bit of a bore I have never really like magic either – as I know it is a trick and therefore not true. It might be clever, very clever, but it is not real or true.

What is true? One thing that is fairly reliable is nature – not the AI images of nature that I just fell foul of – but being present to the nature and creation that is all around us, living as we do in a rural setting, this is surely a place of honesty and truth.

Perhaps this is why it is so good for us to be outdoors? To hear the birds who do not lie when they sing; to see the plants flourishing in their actual setting with no hint of colour correction or airbrushed imagery; to watch the water in the stream freely flowing, undisturbed. We are blessed to live with these honest experiences of creation, and therefore The Creator, right on our doorstep.

An adaption of Romans 1:20-21 says: 'for what is known about God is plain, God has revealed it, His invisible attributes, His power and divine nature can be clearly perceived in nature, so that humans are without excuse…

St Paul who writes the book of Romans and writes to the Philippians (4:8) also tells us 'Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about these things….and the God of Peace will be with you.

Have an excellent summer seeking out those things which are true, noble and good for the soul – every peace be yours, Rev. Lorraine Apps - Huggins

Emergency and Help Contact Details

Police, Fire and Ambulance Emergencies	**999**
Police, Non-Emergency - (Including PCSO ……)	**101**

Ambulance 999 note: an **aed** 'public access ***defibrillator'*** is sited and available 24/7 at the premises (in porch) of A.W. Court in Headcorn road. Ambulance 999 control centre will give 999 callers the lock code, if appropriate, to access the ***defibrillator.***

NHS Medical Helpline			**111**
Maidstone & Pembury Hospitals			**0845 155 1000**
William Harvey Hospital			**01233 633331**
Headcorn Surgery	(*out of hours listen to*		**01622 890294**
Lenham Surgery	*recorded messages)*		**01622 858341**
Electricity (UK Power Networks)			
	Emergencies and Power Cuts		**0800 783 8866**
		Or	**01243 508866**
Water	*Emergencies*		**0333 000 0002**
Southern Water Foul and Waste Water drainage/Flooding			**0330 303 0368**
Calor Gas	*Emergencies*		**08457 444999**
KCC	*Emergencies*		**03000 41 41 41**
	Highways		**03000 41 81 81**

KCC Community Wardens:

Local warden – Stuart Ellesmere		**07969 583923**
District Support – Dawn Riach-Brown		**07773 397125**
Fire	*General Enquiries*	**01622 692121**
	Home Safety Visits	**0800 923 7000**
R.S.P.C.A	*Emergencies*	**0300 1234 999**
Vet	*24 Hour Pet Emergency Treatment Service*	**01622 734555**

Maidstone Borough Community Protection - **01622 602202** – Bonfires, crime, dogs, domestic abuse, loan sharks, noise, pests and protection orders

Environmental Services – **01622 602162** – Fly tipping, Street cleaning, Litter, Bins, dead animals

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Cherry Tree Cottage Headcorn Road Grafty Green ME17 2AN